

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 061405Z SEPT 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: CALL ON NEW MAYOR OF THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 529

1. I PAID COURTESY CALL ON NEWLY-INSTALLED MAYOR OF THESSALONIKI, DIMITRIOS ZANNAS (REF), ON SEPT 5, AND WAS TREATED TO HALF HOUR'S RECITATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY "FAILURES" IN GREECE, RUNNING FAMILIAR GAMUT FROM CHARGES OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING JUNTA IN POWER TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF TURKISH INVASION, BUT STOPPING SHORT OF BLAME FOR IOANNIDIS DOWNFALL. ZANNAS CHECKED ONLY SLIGHTLY AT MY OBSERVATION THAT ACCUSATIONS OF US CONTROL OF GREEK AFFAIRS SEEMED PERENNIAL PHENOMENON, RECALLING, FOR INSTANCE, REPEATED CHARGES OF "CERTAIN POLITICAL CIRCLES" FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THAT USG RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING KARAMANLIS IN POWER (A CRY OFTEN VOICED BY LIBERAL ZANNAS AT THAT TIME). HE DID PASS ON LATEST ANTI-AMERICAN RUMOR MAKING ROUNDS ("WHICH OF COURSE I DON'T BELIEVE"), NAMELY THAT USG FORBIDDING GOG TO PROSECUTE "OLD FRIENDS" IN JUNTA LEADERSHIP.

2. ZANNAS ALSO SAID, IN ONE OF FEW DIVERSIONS FROM CENTRAL

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THEME, THAT ALTHOUGH DECREE HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR

REESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRY OF NORTHERN GREECE, IT WOULD
LIKELY NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. HE
WOULD HAZARD NO GUESS AS TO TIMING OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS,
STATING THERE STILL TOO MANY IMPONDERABLES, BUT BELIEVED
IF THEY WERE TOO LONG DELAYED, KARAMANLIS WOULD HAVE TO
PROCEED TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OR APPOINT NEW MUNICIPAL
OFFICIALS, SINCE RETENTION IN OFFICE OF JUNTA APPOINTEES
"INTOLERABLE".
BRENNAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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